THE TOKEN HUNTER

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The National Utah Token Society
(N.U.T.S.)

DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING, RECORDING, AND PRESERVING
OF UTAH'S HISTORICAL MEDALS, TOKENS, COINS, AND BOTTLES

OFFICERS	NEXT MEETING	PROGRAM
PRES.: Bill Turpela VICE PRES.: Bruce Dugger ..... 261-1678 TREAS/SEC: Jolene Henderson..... 967-2975 EDITORS: Kevin Anderson ..... 943-5425 Robert Winkle..... 942-8990 WAGONMASTERS: Jim Jeffries ..... 972-8284 Karen Secor ..... Tim Rose ..... 969-5904 Diane Nicewinter ..... Medals Chairperson: Bill Brown 942-4365	Thursday March 22, 1997 7:15 p.m.	**Louise Brown** Speaking on: ***MARBLES***

****PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ***** PRIZES ****

Promptness Prize .... 1935 - Pony Express Association Coin
Grand Prize ..... Hawaii 18K Gold Coin

1985 - Liberty Lobby Commemorative 1 oz. Silver Round
1921P - Liberty Head Silver Dollar
Book - The Official Red Book of U.S. Coins - 1997
Cook Transportation Co. - G/F 1 fare ..... Logan, UT
Hotel Utah Cigar & Newsstand - G/F 12½¢ ..... Salt Lake City, UT
Blanding Trading Post - G/F $1.00 ..... Blanding. UT
Nat. Loader - Berry Check ..... Pleasant Grove, UT
Boots Cox Dairy - G/F 1 gallon of milk ..... St. George, UT
Three Aces - G/F 10¢ ..... Salt Lake City, UT
Matt's Place - G/F 25¢ ..... Helper, UT
The Wigwam - G/F 5¢ ..... *Maverick*
Young's Service - G/F 5¢ ..... Provo, UT
Branning's Chili Parlor - G/F 2½¢ ..... Salt Lake City, UT
Utah State Prison - G/F 10¢ ..... Sugar House, UT
Dairy Queen - worth 40¢

WAGONMASTER'S REPORT

by Diane Nicewinter

With regard to the Find of the Month competition, we have had a lot of great finds brought in so far. Keep up the good work!

There were 73 items entered last month. It just goes to show just how many things there are out there to be found. With this wonderful weather now, we expect a lot more exciting new things to be brought in.

The next club outing will be over the Memorial Day weekend. It is being planned for Dragon, Utah. We will be discussing the details at our next club meeting.

I hope those of us who can go will be will rewarded with super finds.

First Place Winners for April

U.S. Coin	Dave Kyte	1928S Standing Liberty Quarter
Foreign Coin	Leonardo Vera	1832 - 1/4 Real - Mexico
Token	Bill Brown	Turf Saloon
	Cliff Fausett	A. M. Thompson 50¢
Jewelry	Bill Brown	Silver Ring
	Eric Hubbard	American Legion Pin
Artifact	Cliff Fausett	Deputy Sheriff Badge
Button	Jeral Smith	1820-1840 Military Button
Non-Metal	Chris Benson	Porcelain Figurine
People Choice Bottle	Jeff Cornelison	Lysol - Brown
Most Valuable Bottle	Leonardo Vera	Root Beer
Oldest U.S. Coin	Eric Hubbard	1854 Seated Liberty Quarter
Oldest U.S. Cent	Jeral Smith	1888 Indian Head Cent
Most Valuable U.S. Coin	Jeral Smith	1909S V.D.B. Lincoln Cent

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bill Turpela

"Things" happen or whatever. Anyway, I am not going to be at this month's meeting, so Mr. Digger will be the person in charge.

The club will be going on its second outing of the year. This was a fun one last year, so the more, the merrier. It is going to be at Dragon, Utah. Take a look at the following article for a map and more information. I hope to make it this year.

We have Louise Brown as our speaker for the May meeting. With all of the marble diggers who missed her talk last year, we are pleased to have her back. So bring in the marbles you have found and maybe she can help you with them. Ha! Ha!

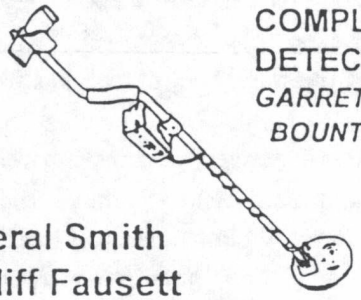
In years past, we have helped set up for our yearly show in June and had our monthly meeting directly thereafter. However, this year we are going to have our meeting in the usual place, so there will be no set up. But this is your show and we do need help with it, so please sign up and help your club officers and yourselves.

If you have ordered club metals, please see Bill Brown at the meeting so that you can pay for them and pick them up.

Well that is it for now. Have a good meeting and I will see you at Dragon if not before. Most of all find a bunch and enjoy.

Bill

J & J METAL DETECTORS



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MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND OUTING

The NUTS Club will be going to the Ghost Towns of Dragon, Watson & Rainbow, Utah. It is a very interesting area with a lot of history from railroading to mining. If you are lucky, you might find one or more or the tokens from the towns in that area. If you wish to explore beyond these towns, then go up to Baxter Pass and see if you can reach the Ghost Town of Atchee, CO. If you decide to stay in a Motel, the closest town is Dinosaur, CO. (approximately 52 miles from Dragon). The attached map is accurate, but if you have not been there before, then please check with Bruce Dugger for some detailed directions to help you find the area easier. Remember to bring water, as it is very scarce there. The outing is scheduled for the weekend of May 24th, 25th, and 26th.

DRAGON

Gilsonite is a black, solid hydrocarbon, occurring in vertical veins and is found in commercial quantities only in one place in the world - the Uintah Basin of Utah and partly in western Colorado. It is found in the Uintah Formation which runs for miles in a northwest to southeast direction across the Basin. Veins run from a fraction of an inch to 22 feet wide (most of the veins are 4 to 8 feet wide and 100 to 2000 feet deep). It was first discovered in the 1860's - 70's, but was not mined commercially until the 1880's by Samuel H. Gilson of Salt Lake City. Prof. William P. Blake in 1885 described the mineral originally as Uinahite, but it was soon called Gilsonite to honor Samuel Gilson who helped bring it into prominence for commercial purposes. The main uses for the mineral are in asphalt tile, storage battery cases, paints, inks, building paper, insulation material for steam and water pipes, gasoline, metallurgical coke and caulking for beer barrels.

The town of Dragon grew up on the flats 1.5 miles down from the Black Dragon mine, named for a gilsonite deposit on the surface of the ground in the shape of a black dragon.

In 1903-04, the General Asphalt Paving Company, through its subsidiary Barber Asphalt Paving Company, constructed a narrow gauge railroad from Mack, Colorado, toward Dragon and the mine. This railroad, known as the Uintah Railway, was to become famous for its steep grades and extremely sharp curves. Because of the extreme sharpness of several curves over Baxter Pass some of the locomotives were too long, so they were pulled over the curves on special wheels, then reassembled on the Utah side to spend the rest of their lives only in the Uintah Basin.

The town was first called Dragon Junction, as passengers and freight were put off for the stage or wagon trip to Vernal, while the railroad continued up to the mine. The mine was located in 1888 and included a tiny village called Dragon Camp. When the railroad was finished to Dragon, the town had a depot, warehouse, locomotive shops, Uintah Railway Hotel, a store, boarding house, several homes, two saloons, a barber shop and became much bigger than the mining camp itself.

In 1910, the Uintah Railway warehouse burned down, hundreds of tons of freight were destroyed. It was the greatest fire loss ever seen in northeastern Utah until that time.

Gilsonite stored caught fire from a locomotive, producing a very hot fire with a continuous fuel supply. A bucket brigade saved the baggage, express and telegraph buildings nearby, but the warehouse, freight store rooms, platforms and ramps were destroyed. An engine pulled several cars of gilsonite away from the inferno, saving most of it awaiting shipment.

A public library was built in Dragon in 1910 and for anyone along the railroad who borrowed a book, the Uintah Railway delivered and returned it free. Many stockmen and miners in the region took great advantage of the opportunity. Also in 1910, the Uintah Railway started using automobiles to transport passengers from Dragon to Vernal, thus phasing out stage coaches.

In 1908, a fire started on one section of the gilsonite vein at the Dragon mine and was still burning in 1910 but by then most of the mining was in areas north of Dragon. Then in 1911, the town went into a moderate decline as immediate mines closed down and the railroad terminus was moved to Watson 9.5 miles north. Enough people remained, however, to support a new school house in 1917.

WATSON

Watson was named after Uintah Railway civil engineer. Wallace G. Watson, who laid out the railway extension from Dragon to Watson in 1911 along Evacuation Creek. The town was never very big mainly being a railroad terminus. It did contain a depot, post office and freight house, other railroad facilities and the railroad-owned Watson Hotel. There were also several houses, dugouts, and a couple of general stores.

One of the more humorous episodes in Uintah County history involved the Uintah Railway and Watson. In 1914, the U.S. government increased the weight limit of a parcel post package to 50 pounds which made it cheaper for shipments to go by mail rather than by overland stage freight, railroad freight charges or Railway Express. As a result, a great numbers of odd items went through the Dragon and Watson post offices on the railroad mail trains, then by truck or stage to Vernal, by the same route or even longer as regular freight. Everything from groceries to auto parts including a whole carload of cement went through. The final straw was the shipment was the shipment of 13,700 bricks totaling 35 tons for building the Bank of Vernal. Each brick was individually wrapped, rubber stamped with the address, stamped and mailed. This is the only known instance of a bank being sent through the mails.

RAINBOW

Rainbow was more important, located four miles to the southwest of Watson and situation right over the Rainbow mine. The railroad spur to Rainbow, also laid in 1911, crossed over the gilsonite vein in a sweeping curve to facilitate loading of the mineral; a wye then allowed the engine to change positions for the trip back down the tight canyon.

Strictly a mine town, Rainbow consisted of two rows of houses, mostly of log construction, built along the ridge near the mine. The mines produced most of the railroad tonnage after 1911.

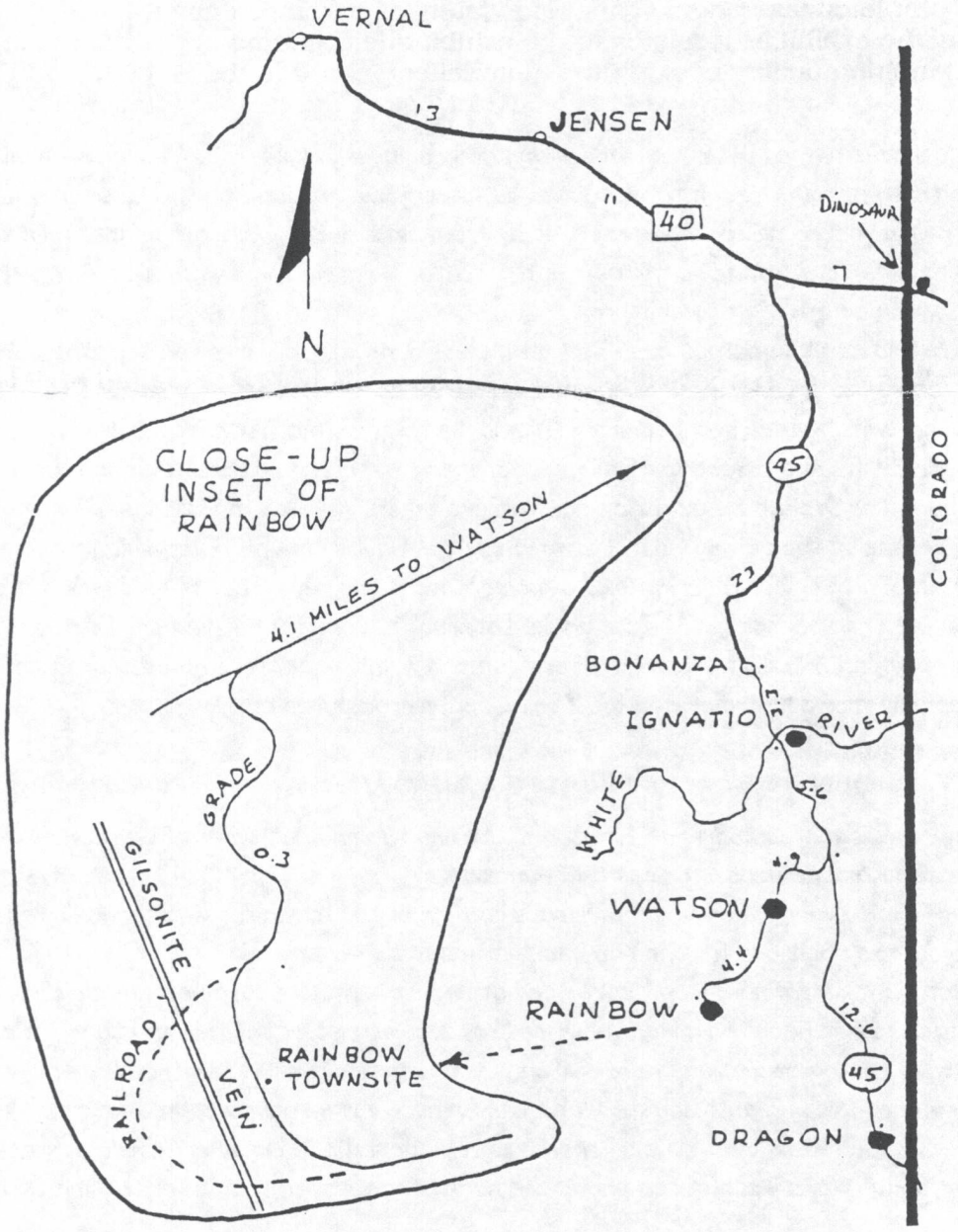
By 1938, mining operations were switched to Bonanza 15 miles north of Watson where the company offices are presently located, and the Rainbow mines stopped production.

The town died rapidly and the railroad was abandoned in 1939 when mining operations ceased in Rainbow and Dragon and there was no other source of traffic for the line. Gilsonite

from Bonanza was trucked to Vernal or Craig, Colorado. By 1939, just before abandonment. Watson had a population of 10. Dragon still had 72, mostly railroad workers, and Rainbow was gone - the log houses had been moved to Bonanza. Most well-built homes were sold or moved, others left to the elements.

Paved State Highway 45 exits 24 miles east of Vernal and runs southward 23 miles to Bonanza. Although this town is not a ghost, it is worthwhile to observe the log buildings as most of them were once the town of Rainbow. Highway 45 beyond Bonanza is unpaved although graded and passable.

Only a few dugouts, loading pens and bottle fragments are left at Watson. The road to Rainbow fords the creek in Watson and may be bad when a flash flood goes through.



NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY
SALT LAKE CITY COIN & TOKEN SHOW
EXHIBIT RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Exhibits must be entered in one of the following catagories:

    1. Tokens
    2. Medals
    3. U.S. and/or Foreign Coins
    4. Currency & Scriptophily
    5. Junior
    6. Hand-held Collectables (Other Than Those Listed)

2. The points system to be used in judging is, as follows:
    A. Information measured in terms of educational value to the viewer 35
    B. Arrangement and originality, manner of presentation 30
    C. Completeness, range, scope and variety of coverage shown by the exhibit as it relates to the exhibit title or theme 15
    D. Condition quality of exhibited material compared to the highest known quality of like material 10
    E. Rarity, considering condition of exhibited material 10

3. Awards will be given by the Exhibit Chairman to 1st and 2nd place in each category and for People's Choice and Best of Show. All other exhibitors will receive a participation award.

4. Exhibitors are limited to members of a Utah State coin club and only one exhibit. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first reserved basis according to these rules until all available space is allocated. Applications will be accepted until ten (10) days prior to show date.

5. Exhibits must be set up by 10:00 A.M. on the first day of the show and removed at any time after 2:00 P.M., but not later than two (2) hours before closing the last day of the show.

APPLICATION TO EXHIBIT

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